



**Statement of Ireland**  
**44<sup>th</sup> session of the UPR Working Group**

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Review of Turkmenistan

**6 November 2023**

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Turkmenistan and thanks it for its presentation today.

Ireland notes Turkmenistan's efforts to advance human rights domestically since the last UPR cycle, such as the programme of cooperation with the ILO for the implementation of the ILO Convention on the Abolition of Forced Labour.

Ireland regrets the lack of progress with the implementation of recommendations from previous cycles, and we are concerned by the continued reluctance by Turkmenistan to allow access to the country to special procedure mandate holders.

Ireland also remains concerned by reports of state-imposed forced labour, including child labour, in the cotton sector, suppression of civil society and human rights defenders and the continued persecution of LGBTI+ persons.

**Recommendations**

Ireland recommends Turkmenistan:

1. Decriminalise sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex, and take measures to effectively combat discrimination and violence against persons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.
2. Create a safe and enabling environment to allow independent monitors, journalists and human rights defenders access to document and report labour conditions, particularly with access to the annual cotton harvest, without fear of reprisals.

We wish Turkmenistan every success in this UPR cycle. Thank you.